

Obituaries

Sharon Anderson

Sharon Lee Anderson, 81 of Tuscola, passed away at 12:09 p.m. Wednesday, August 2, 2023, at her residence.

A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday, August 10, in the Arcola Cemetery. Ed Davis will be officiating.

Sharon was born August 26, 1941, in Robinson. She was the daughter of Marion Ellsworth and LaBerta (Faught) Lowrence. She married Larry R. Anderson Sr. on December 27, 1958, in Arcola. He passed away on January 19, 2011.

She is survived by her three sons, Larry “Ron” Anderson Jr. of Savoy, Robert Anderson of Tuscola, and Andy (Amanda) Anderson of Tuscola; eight grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; four sisters, Mary Cordes of Mattoon,

Ann (Ed) Davis of Mattoon, Kathy Blackwell of Sacramento, Calif., and Diana Moore of Tennessee.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Marion and LaBerta Lowrence; her husband, Larry Anderson Sr.; and two brothers, William and John Stewart.

Sharon was a member of the American Legion in Mattoon. She worked as a sales clerk at the Hanes Outlet store in Tuscola for many years.

She enjoyed traveling with her husband all over the United States. Sharon was a fun-loving person; she was always a joy to be around.

Sharon enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. She took each of her grandchildren on a special graduation trip, wherever that child wanted to go;



Anderson

just with grandma! This was a very special time for both grandma and the grandchild; many memories were made.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Susie Mast

Susie A. Mast, 75 years, 2 months, 28 days, of Sullivan, passed away at 11:15 a.m. on Monday, July 31, 2023, at her residence.

Funeral services were held Thursday, August 3, at the HCK West Building, rural Arthur. Bishop Philip Farmwald officiated. Burial was in the Yoder Cemetery in rural Arthur. Visitation was held Tuesday, August 1, and Wednesday, August 2, all at the HCK West

Building. The Edwards Funeral Home assisted with arrangements.

Susie was born on May 3, 1948, in Douglas County. She was the daughter of Fred J. and Anna M. (Schrock) Mast.

She is survived by three siblings, Lydia Ann Miller and her husband, Melvin, of Tuscola, Ervin Mast and his wife, Edith, of Arthur, and Pauline Schrock and her husband, Ivan, of Sullivan; three brothers-in-law, Leon Helmuth of Windsor, Mo., Firman Hershberger and

his wife, Mary, of Kalona, Iowa, and Abraham Yoder of Milton, Iowa; one sister-in-law, Vera Mast of Sarasota, Fla.; 36 nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Fred and Anna Mast; four sisters, Emma Gingerich and her husband, Emery, Barbara Yoder, Sovilla Hershberger, and Mary Helmuth; one brother, Joe Mast; and seven nieces and nephews.

Susie was a member of the Old Order Amish Church.

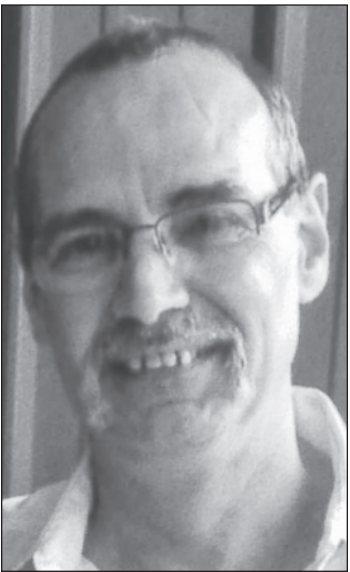
Rick Cox

Rick Cox, 63, of Arcola, passed away at 8:20 a.m. on Thursday, August 3, 2023, at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center.

A memorial service to celebrate Rick’s life will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, August 11, at the Edwards Funeral Home. Visitation will be held from 5–7 p.m. prior to the service at the funeral home.

Rick was born on August 24, 1959, in Tuscola, the son of Franklin Cassie and Barbara Louise (Janes) Cox.

He is survived by a sister, Teri Bickel of Charleston; nephews, Brandon Gibson, and his wife, Lisa, of Mahomet, Shay Gibson, and his wife, Courtney, of Arcola, and Austin Bickel and his wife, Cassie, of Mattoon; and one niece, Micha



Cox

Nicole Rader of Shelbyville; a granddaughter, Aubry Tate; great-nieces and great-nephews, Caden Gibson, Dale and Emma Gibson, Taylor Marie Gossard, Adrienne Leigh Rad-

er and Steven Owen Bickel; and some really good friends.

Rick was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Barb Cox; one sister, Cathy Gibson; and his daughter, Shelby Tate.

He was a 1977 graduate of Arcola High School. He worked at RR Donnelley in Mattoon for many years. He later worked at Masterbrand Cabinets in Arthur and retired a few years ago.

Rick liked dogs and had several through the years. “Jack” was his most recent dog, a German Shepherd, and before “Jack” there was “Girl.”

Rick liked to hunt turtles in rivers, creeks, and ditches; a very exciting sport, though not for everyone, but he was good at it. He also enjoyed fishing with friends and family. He will be missed.

Letter to the editor —

School bus safety reminder for start of school year

Dear Editor,

We are again coming upon a new school year. School buses are again going to be on the road, as with all new back to school happenings. I wanted to take a minute once again, to explore school bus safety.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 113 occupants were killed in school transportation vehicles from 2012-2021; 52 were drivers and 61 were passengers.

The NHTSA conducts an annual survey on just one designated day a year. This year, this day was April 25 for Illinois. Here are statistics from that single survey day.

There were 6,428 drivers that participated. The sur-

vey shows that on that one single day, there were 3,251 occasions when a school bus stop arm was illegally passed. 1,470 occurred in the morning hours, 295 occurred mid-day hours and 1,486 occurred during the afternoon hours.

I just want to refresh the motoring public on understanding how school bus lights function. Yellow flashing lights indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. You should slow down and prepare to stop your vehicle at least 20 feet away from a stopped school bus.

Red flashing lights and extended stop-arms indicate the bus has stopped and children are getting on or off the bus. You must stop your car and wait until the red lights stop



flashing, the extended stop-arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving, before you can start driving again.

I’m also asking everyone to please be patient. Our little ones are too young to feel a since of urgency when loading

OP-ED

IFB President: Drought poses challenges for farmers, but the agriculture industry remains resilient

By RICHARD GUEBERT JR.
Illinois Farm Bureau President

This summer growing season has brought a whirlwind of challenges for Illinois farmers, from severe drought to a devastating derecho and flash flooding. When it comes to how farmers are faring under such conditions, my friend and colleague said it best: “It depends on what cloud you’re under.”

Every farmer’s situation is different. How drought affects profitability and yield depends on numerous variables, including crop variety and location, making it difficult to generalize how farmers will end up after this rollercoaster ride of weather patterns.

In a single county one farmer’s field of corn or soybeans might look completely different from another’s 5 miles down the road.

Illinois closed July with some of the warmest temperatures so far this year with drought conditions spottily disrupted by pop-up thunderstorms across the state. While some areas were lucky enough to see rain, we’re not out of the woods yet. To quote the Illinois State Climatologist office, “drought is a complex physical and social phenomenon, usually with no clear beginning or end.”

At the end of the day, farmers want to produce a good crop. Drought and unpredictable weather are discouraging for farmers planning for a bountiful harvest, but we are still a long way from the bin. We are hopeful for good, timely rains in the coming weeks.

While we wait for the upcoming harvest, now is a good time to remind consumers to take full advantage of their local farmers markets. Illinois ranks second in the nation for the number of farmers markets, which offer fresh, locally produced vegetables, meat and other food products at affordable prices.

Sweet corn, a summertime favorite, is now available so be sure to grab a few ears to grill on your next farmers market visit.

It’s hard to believe the dog days of summer are nearly over. I am eagerly looking forward to another lively Illinois



Guebert

State Fair. Some of my favorite memories are the years I spent showing dairy cattle owned by family friends. Now as a spectator, I am energized watching the youth exhibitors take to the ring during the Master Showmanship competition, which Illinois Farm Bureau proudly sponsors.

Ag Day at the Illinois State Fair is an annual event celebrating all that Illinois agriculture has to offer. This year’s celebration will take place on Aug. 11 and is a great opportunity for Illinoisians to connect with agriculture at every level, whether it’s stopping by the commodity pavilion for a pork chop sandwich or grabbing a refreshing cup of frozen apple cider and other fresh produce

from the Illinois Specialty Growers tent.

Amid the excitement of fair activities, however, Ag Day is also an opportunity for farm leaders to work collaboratively on agricultural issues. Such conversations are increasingly important as lawmakers hammer out the details of the next Farm Bill, which extends beyond the farm by protecting our nation’s food supply, access to nutrition and advancing conservation efforts.

Later this August hundreds of farmers and agribusinesses from across the globe will travel to Decatur for the 70th annual Farm Progress Show. This event will showcase the latest agricultural innovations and emerging technologies.

There is no better way to end a busy summer than celebrating Illinois agriculture, whether it is at the State Fair or Farm Progress Show. I encourage everyone to take a day or two to spend at the fair and learn more about how Illinois agriculture touches their everyday life.

This op-ed was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.

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